

**Clatterford and Thompson Tuition Centres,
WISE Workshops, centrally retained SEN
Support Services and Early Years Service**

**Consultation on the proposed relocation and
expansion of centrally retained provision**

May 2012

Consultation document

The relocation and expansion of Clatterford and Thompson Tuition Centres, WISE Workshops, centrally retained SEN Support Services and Early Years Service

Introduction

Isle of Wight Council is committed to a programme of improving inclusion and educational provision for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities, alongside a programme of rationalisation of services.

As part of the programme of rationalisation the council has taken the decision to close Thompson House. The accommodation used by the tuition centre based there is in unsuitable accommodation. This was recently confirmed by an OFSTED Inspection. The tuition centre and the centrally retained SEN and Early Years' services that are currently based there will therefore need to be relocated. Additionally, the accommodation used by the Clatterford Tuition Centre is in poor repair and unsuitable for purpose.

Many children and young people with behaviour, social, emotional needs are able to succeed in mainstream schools with additional support. Where this is possible, the council believes that inclusion should be the preferred choice.

However, there are a number of children and young people with statements for behavioural, social, emotional difficulties who are currently inappropriately placed in the tuition centres. Additionally, there are a number of others with similar statements, who are struggling in mainstream schools because there is no specialist provision on the Island.

The council believes that with available accommodation following the re-organisation of mainstream provision, this would be the ideal time to establish a provision for children with statements for behaviour, social, emotional difficulties who have needs that are unable to be met in their mainstream school.

This document sets out the reasons why the council is making proposals for change and asks for feedback on three main proposals:

- i. Relocating Thompson House and Clatterford Tuition Centres to one site within a refurbished vacant school.
- ii. Establishing a separate provision for primary and secondary aged children and young people with statements for behaviour, social, emotional needs on another refurbished vacant school.
- iii. Relocating the WISE workshop provision onto the two new sites.

This document explains why these changes are proposed and what the changes would mean for pupils already at the school.

Additionally, in order to help detailed proposals, the document seeks your views on three other associated issues concerning the proposed new provision:

- i. Whether provision for children and young people with behaviour, social, emotional difficulties should be separate from or integrated with provision with medical needs and those who are excluded from mainstream schools.
- ii. Whether SEN and Early Years Support Services should be relocated to the same site as the tuition centres.
- iii. Whether Education Welfare Service, Mental Health Team and Behaviour Support Service - those services that are most involved with children and young people with

behaviour, social, emotional needs - should be relocated to the same site as the provision for children and young people with behaviour, social, emotional needs.

The consultation runs until the 11th June 2012.

Please tell us your views.

You can email your responses to:

relocation.consultation@iow.gov.uk

You can also write your answers in this document and return it to County Hall marked for the attention of Relocation Consultation, Commissioner for SEN and Alternative Provision c/o Schools and Learning Business Support. If you want to post your response, please mark it "relocation consultation response" and send it to:

Commissioner for SEN and Alternative Provision, Schools and Learning Division, County Hall, Main Road, Newport, PO30 1UD

Two meetings are being arranged to explain the proposals and allow people to ask questions. The first meeting will take place at **6.30pm on 15 May 2012 at Broadlea Primary School, Berry Hill, Lake, Sandown, PO36 9LH**; the second meeting will be held at **6.30pm on 1c May 2012 at Lanesend Primary School, Love Lane, Cowes, PO31 7ET**. You are welcome to attend either of these meetings.

Why are these changes being proposed?

These changes are being proposed as part of The Isle of Wight Council's rationalisation of education support services. The re-organisation programme for primary and secondary mainstream schools has allowed the Council to take a strategic view on the best way to organise SEN and Early Years Support Services and organise and develop Alternative Provision. The council is already committed to closing Thompson House, which currently houses the Thompson House Tuition Centre and SEN and Early Years' Support Services. Thompson House Tuition Centre is a pupil referral unit that makes provision for primary and secondary aged pupils with medical needs and for primary aged pupils who are excluded from or in danger of being excluded from school. In a recent OFSTED Inspection, the provision was judged to be good, despite the inspection noting that the accommodation was not fit for purpose.

Clatterford Tuition Centre is a pupil referral unit that makes provision for secondary aged students who are excluded from or in danger of being excluded from mainstream schools. The centre carries out intensive work with these young people and is often successful in helping them to return to mainstream education. Currently Clatterford Centre is oversubscribed and the statutory duty to provide for permanently excluded students sometimes means that young people have to be returned to mainstream education before staff can be convinced that they will be able to succeed.

Many residents will be aware of the excellent art and design work carried out at the Centre, some of which is displayed in the town of Newport. This is one example of the good provision that is made across the centre, despite that fact that the accommodation is unfit for purpose and that parts of it are in poor repair.

Additionally, the Tuition Centres have a small number of children and young people with statements for behavioural, social, emotional difficulties (BESD) who are inappropriately placed. Some of these have been returned to the Island from very expensive mainland placements that were failing to meet their needs effectively. The council is also aware of

a small but significant number of children and young people with significant and complex behaviour, social, emotional needs, currently placed in mainstream schools but who would be more appropriately placed in a special school. These children do not meet the admission criteria for the two special schools that already exist.

The proposals

1. Relocation of both tuition centres to a specialist refurbished provision in a school that has been vacated as part of the re-organisation of mainstream schools. This would offer the opportunity to give vulnerable children and young people a better chance to succeed in their education. It will also provide the council with sufficient accommodation to work with the number of young people now being excluded from mainstream secondary schools.
2. To relocate the SEN and Early Years' Services to the same site. This proposal will allow the SEN support services to have separate accommodation but also to work with children and young people in the tuition centres as required.

The site proposed is **Berry Hill, Lake, Sandown, PO36 9LH**.

3. To establish a separate provision for children and young people with statements for behaviour, social, emotional difficulties. The provision will operate under the same management as the tuition centres and alternative provision. It is planned to accommodate a maximum of 25 children and young people, who do not have significant learning difficulties.
4. To relocate the Education Welfare Service, the Behaviour Support Team and the Mental Health Support Team to the same site. This will allow specialist support for this group of vulnerable children and young people and their families, whilst retaining the ability to operate in support of mainstream schools across the Island.

The site being proposed for this provision is **Love Lane, Cowes, PO31 7ET**.

5. WISE workshops will be relocated to accommodation on the two proposed sites. Each site will make provision for woodwork, the most popular of the activities.

Why are these two sites being proposed? What other sites were considered?

The Cowes site is proposed because:

- it is large enough to accommodate the proposed expanded and much improved tuition centres, providing all the facilities that are appropriate in an excellent provision for pupils who have medical needs that prevent them attending mainstream schools and those who are excluded from their schools for a period of time;
- the site is also large enough to accommodate WISE vehicle maintenance workshop, marine engineering workshop, computer-aided design workshop and woodwork;

- there is also sufficient space in the grounds to accommodate portable accommodation that is large enough for centrally retained SEN and Early Years Services;
- the site is large enough to allow sufficient car parking for teaching and support staff and visiting professionals as well as good drop-off and pick-up facilities for pupils;
- it is already owned by the Council. This is important because the Council cannot afford to buy land.
- the extra places this development provides are needed as soon as possible and this site would allow that to be achieved.

The Lake site is proposed because:

- it is large enough to accommodate the proposed new provision for both primary and secondary aged pupils, providing all the facilities that are appropriate in an excellent provision for pupils who have behaviour, social, emotional needs that prevent them attending mainstream schools;
- the site is also large enough to accommodate WISE bike maintenance workshop, professional kitchen for accredited courses and woodwork;
- there is sufficient space in the grounds to accommodate portable accommodation large enough for the Education Welfare Service, Mental Health Team and Behaviour Support Team;
- the site is large enough to allow sufficient car parking for teaching and support staff and visiting professionals as well as good drop-off and pick-up facilities for pupils;
- it is already owned by the council. This is important because the council cannot afford to buy land;
- the extra places this development provides are needed as soon as possible and this site allows that to be achieved.

The council has considered other sites. Alternative sites considered are either:

- closely surrounded by residential developments or
- on sites where space is too small or access too difficult to accommodate the number of vehicles required for staff, visiting professionals and parents/carers.

What do the proposals mean for children already in the schools?

The proposal is that the tuition centres would relocate by December 2012 at the latest. The new BESD provision would open during the spring term 2013.

Any pupil who is currently attending the tuition centres would relocate into the new provision by January 2013. Young people with BESD then in Year 11 would continue with the tuition centre to the end of Key Stage 4.

Younger pupils with a statement for BESD who are attending the tuition centres would transfer to the new BESD provision by September 2013 at the latest, following a period of careful transition.

Any pupils from mainstream schools who are identified as requiring a place in the new provision through statutory processes will transfer at a date agreed by the SEN Assessment and Statement Panel.

Currently a number of pupils arrive by taxi or public transport. Both sites have good access by public transport. WISE students sometimes arrive by minibus from mainstream schools and that will continue. However, improved loading and unloading facilities will make access easier. Pupils leaving the sites during the school day will almost always be accompanied by trained staff, whether by mini-bus or walking.

What happens next?

The Isle of Wight Council will consider all consultation responses before making a decision about whether to continue with the proposals or not. It is expected that the Council would receive the report about the consultation responses and make decisions about next steps by 9 July 2012.

- If the council decides to continue, the next step would be the publication of a statutory notice to relocate the tuition centres and open the new BESD provision
- If the council decides not to continue, the process stops.
- If the council decides that it wishes to consider another option (which could be a different site, or a different proposal) it would probably need to consult with the public again.

If the council does decide to continue with the current proposals, it is anticipated that the statutory notice would be available for anyone to comment on it between 9 July 2012 and 6 August 2012. After that period all responses received would be considered before the Council makes the final decision; this would probably be at their meeting on 11 September 2012. The decisions would then be made public within four weeks.

The design proposals for the refurbished buildings would need planning permission and would be available for public consultation as part of that process.

Consultation on the relocation and expansion of Clatterford and Thompson Tuition Centres, WISE Workshops, centrally retained SEN Support Services and Early Years' Service

- i. What are your views on relocating Thompson House and Clatterford Tuition Centres to one site within a refurbished vacant school?

<input type="checkbox"/>	strongly in favour	<input type="checkbox"/>	in favour	<input type="checkbox"/>	opposed
<input type="checkbox"/>	strongly opposed	<input type="checkbox"/>	no view		

- ii. Should the Council establish a separate provision for primary and secondary aged children and young people with statements for behaviour, social, emotional need?

<input type="checkbox"/>	strongly in favour	<input type="checkbox"/>	in favour	<input type="checkbox"/>	opposed
<input type="checkbox"/>	strongly opposed	<input type="checkbox"/>	no view		

- iii. What are your views on relocating the WISE workshop provision onto the two new sites?

<input type="checkbox"/>	strongly in favour	<input type="checkbox"/>	in favour	<input type="checkbox"/>	opposed
<input type="checkbox"/>	strongly opposed	<input type="checkbox"/>	no view		

- iv. Should provision for children and young people with behaviour, social, emotional difficulties be separate from or integrated with provision with medical needs and those who are excluded from mainstream schools?

<input type="checkbox"/>	strongly in favour	<input type="checkbox"/>	in favour	<input type="checkbox"/>	opposed
<input type="checkbox"/>	strongly opposed	<input type="checkbox"/>	no view		

- v. Should SEN and Early Years Support Services be relocated to the same site as the Tuition Centres?

<input type="checkbox"/>	strongly in favour	<input type="checkbox"/>	in favour	<input type="checkbox"/>	opposed
<input type="checkbox"/>	strongly opposed	<input type="checkbox"/>	no view		

- vi. Should Education Welfare Service, Mental Health Team and Behaviour Support Service - those services that are most involved with children and young people with behaviour, social, emotional needs – be relocated to the same site as the provision for children and young people with behaviour, social, emotional needs.

☐ strongly in favour ☐ in favour ☐ opposed
☐ strongly opposed ☐ no view

If you wish, please use this space to explain in more detail why you hold these views:

Are you

☐ Staff ☐ parent ☐ governor ☐ pupil

Please say which school _____

Local resident

☐

Please state which site you live closest to _____